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REMARKS

The Office Action dated 5 October, 2004 rejected claims 1-5, 8-10, 19 and 20 under U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,351,642 to Bonavent et al. Claims 6, 7, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,351,642 to Bonavent et al. Claims 7 and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were considered allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 14-18 were allowed.

Accordingly, claims 7 and 11 have been re-written in independent form, by each incorporating rejected base claim 1 and intervening claim 2 that limited these claims heretofore, as a component of each of these amended claims.

Dependent claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 and 12, which originally were dependent upon base claim 1, have been amended to be dependent upon amended base claim 7. Dependent claim 13, which was dependent upon currently amended claim 10, is thus permitted to retain its original status. New claim 21 is added to add the dependent claim subject matter originally in previously dependent claim 11, now applied to amended base claim 7.

New dependent claim 22 contains the subject matter of claim 4, but dependent upon claim 11, with activation as a result of loss of vacuum as opposed to loss of pressure. New dependent claim 23 contains the subject matter of claim 9, but dependent upon claim 11. New dependent claim 24 contains the subject matter of claim 12, but dependent upon claim 11. New dependent claim 25 contains the subject matter originally in claim 7 prior to current amendment, but dependent upon claim 11.

Claims 14-16 and 18 are retained in their original state. Claim 17, although not identified in the Office Action, is amended to refer to the structure in its base claim 14, and not just the material type, which is not mentioned in the base claim. New dependent claim 26 contains the subject matter originally in claim 7 prior to current amendment, but now dependent upon claim 14.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 19 and 20 are withdrawn.